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science to be met with in any language, if not the very best. We have seen that, by his lectures in the Normal Schools and at the Teachers' Institutes, there has been awakened among the teachers, especially of New England, a real love of geographical science, and an earnest, intelligent inquiry for more detailed treatises than any which are now accessible in English, embodying the principles in their manifold applications. We are confident that in the next few years a great impulse will be given to studies of this character, and, as the years roll on, we look forward to increasing honor among our countrymen for the life and labors of Carl Ritter.

ART. VIII.—1. *Annual Report of the Western Sanitary Commission for the Years ending July, 1862, and July, 1863.* St. Louis, Mo.

2. *Circular of Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, to be held in St. Louis, May 17th, 1864.* Major-General W. S. ROSECRANS, President.

IN the article on the Sanitary Commission in our January number, our readers will have observed that the name of St. Louis, Missouri, does not appear on the roll of honor. The State is referred to, in a single line, as being the only loyal State out of the circle of sanitary allegiance. By what cause it has been thus left out does not appear. Nor is it said whether that State and city, which have been so prominent in the war for liberty, have done or attempted anything whatever in the work of humanity. Those of our readers who know nothing of the facts have probably concluded that the circumstances of peculiar difficulty under which Missouri has been compelled to play her part,—the devastation of her territory by the Confederate invaders and guerilla bands of robbers, the destruction of her trade, the social dissensions among her own people, the prevailing “sympathy” of the wealthier classes for the Southern cause or trade, her rapid transition from slavery to freedom, changing all the relations and conduct of industrial pursuits, and the extraordinary demands upon her,

especially at the commercial metropolis, in the prosecution of civil war upon a scale of unequalled magnitude, while her resources were nearly all cut off,—that these and other causes furnish a sufficient apology for her exceptional position, which is to be regretted, but not too severely blamed. To others it is known that such apology is not needed. But probably very few are prepared to learn that St. Louis, so far from being delinquent, has stood among the foremost cities of the loyal States in the sanitary and relief departments of the war. The fact is, that, if we estimate the whole amount done by the United States Sanitary Commission and all its branches, including all the large central cities named in our last number, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Cincinnati, Louisville, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, Albany, Pittsburg, &c.,—taking the estimate as made by Rev. Dr. H. W. Bellows (Doc. 69 U. S. San. Com.),—the distributions and expenditures by the organization known as the Western Sanitary Commission at St. Louis have risen to between one fifth and one fourth of the whole amount. Its cash receipts, if California is left out of the estimate, have been almost as great as those at Washington. It has had, with trifling exceptions, exclusive (sanitary) care of all the armies west of the Mississippi, from the beginning of the war until now. For the first year of the war, the time of greatest difficulty, it had almost a monopoly in fitting up and supplying hospital steamers and all other Western river work, including supplies to the gunboat flotilla on the Mississippi, and has kept its agents and stores of hospital supplies at every important point in the Western department. It has established soldiers' homes in different places, in which six hundred guests, chiefly invalids and convalescents, are taken care of, as the daily average, provided with whatever help they need, and forwarded to their destination. It has labored indefatigably, and at great expense, particularly in the earlier half of the war, in the establishment of hospitals, and in providing all the necessary means for the comfort of the patients, and has shared the labors of medical directors and purveyors, of surgeons, nurses, and attendants, almost never coming into conflict with them, or receiving anything but their thanks. Under the commission of Miss D. L. Dix, it has had charge

of selecting and assigning to places of duty all female nurses in the Western Department, — a labor of great importance and difficulty, but which could not be declined. In two recent months, one hundred certificates to female nurses have been issued. Against all prejudices, and notwithstanding real and unavoidable difficulties in the way, the employment of female nurses has steadily grown in favor, and the Western Commission regards them as an indispensable part of every good hospital, both in the sick-wards and in the special diet-department. By special orders of Generals Halleck and Schofield, this Commission has also had superintendence at St. Louis of the interests of the Union refugees from Rebel States, and has provided for many thousands of that unfortunate class. During the last few months, by what has seemed a providential necessity, the Freedmen's cause has come under its care, with the cordial approval of the Secretaries of War and the Treasury, and by its prompt and efficient attention to the claims of the oppressed the most satisfactory results have been already attained.

The outlay of the Western Sanitary Commission, for over two years, has averaged, in money and goods, fifty thousand dollars per month, the whole of which has gone to the direct prevention or relief of suffering, deducting one and a half per cent, which covers the total costs of all salaries, agencies, and distribution. Of course, a great deal of the labor, especially the more responsible part, has been done gratuitously, and every facility has been afforded by government officers, by free transportation, "detached service," and in every other practicable way. From St. Louis to New Orleans, from Pea Ridge to Chattanooga, by every commander of the Department of the Missouri and every general in the field, by the head of the Western Medical Department and the various medical directors, by quartermasters and transportation-masters, and all other officers, the Commission and its agents have been most kindly recognized, and have scarcely ever solicited a favor in vain. It has received far more credit from them than it could have claimed as its proper due. Its co-operation has often been asked, and never refused. Its representations of official neglect, and its suggestions of change, have been uniformly attended to, and, except where it has ignorantly violated regu-

lations, or neglected proper official etiquette, no complaint or hard feeling has ever been expressed.

In fact, the whole medical administration in the West has been admirably managed for two years past. Before that time it was a divided management, without a general head. But since the reorganization of the Medical Department, by which the whole region west of the Alleghany Mountains was placed under direction of the Assistant Surgeon-General, Dr. R. C. Wood, everything has been well ordered. Probably no armies have ever been more amply or promptly provided with medical supplies than those of the West. The surgeons in field and hospital have been held to strict responsibility, and although many abuses and negligences have arisen, they have been corrected as soon as known. Comparatively few complaints of inefficiency have been heard at the West, and from the testimony of both officers and men we are satisfied that just cause of complaint has seldom been found. Dr. Wood has given the most ample proof both of mental and physical capacity, and we have known few men who have so perfectly united the *suaviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re*.

The outlay, and of course the income, of the Sanitary Commission at St. Louis, since the war began to the present time, has amounted to nearly the value of a million and a half of dollars, which has been distributed in hospitals and camps, for the purposes of prevention and cure, among all the armies of the West. In these distributions no sectional or State lines are recognized, and no discrimination for or against any one, on the ground of nationality, lineage, social position, or color, has ever been permitted. The Legislature of Missouri, from its exhausted finances, has contributed \$75,000 for relief of Missouri troops, through the Commission; but this sum has been used so as to accomplish the end without any practical discrimination being made. The money was passed into the general fund, and distributing agents were instructed that all soldiers should be treated alike, but to make such memoranda of supplies to Missouri soldiers, wherever found, as would enable them to show the amounts so expended. When the last estimates were given in, it appeared that already over \$100,000 had been so expended, and the best evidence was thus afforded

that an enlarged policy is always the best. It is the soldier of the Union whom we help, not the citizen of Missouri or Massachusetts. The means of helping come from all sources promiscuously, and in the same large and catholic spirit should they be expended.

In one respect — we mean the sources of receipts and the manner of their collection — the experience of the Western Sanitary Commission has been remarkable, if not peculiar. It sprang from sudden exigency for relief of suffering, without opportunity to count the cost either of labor or money involved. At its first meeting, its members, a half-dozen in number, agreed to advance the small amount needed for office expenses, and to do without a clerk. They put notices in the St. Louis papers asking contributions, and sent a few lines to the Boston Transcript, requesting New England women to send “knit woollen socks.” Similar notices or appeals have been published from time to time, about once in six months, ever since. This has been the whole machinery of collection from first to last. There have been no auxiliary societies, no collectors, no systematic means of replenishing the treasury whatever. Once, however, in Boston, in January, 1863, a number of gentlemen took the matter in hand, and in a fortnight’s time \$35,000 was paid to Richard C. Greenleaf, Esq., who acted as Treasurer, and was forwarded to St. Louis. He still continues to act in the same capacity. A similar action was also recently taken in St. Louis, and during the “frozen week” of last January, with the thermometer ranging from twenty degrees below zero to two degrees above, the sum of nearly \$30,000 was collected. For the rest, whatever has come has been obtained by strictly individual action, without concert or definite plan. Perhaps one further exception should be made, of a New England lady, who in the beginning of the war set apart a room in her house as the “Missouri Room,” and, letting all her friends know of this convenient method of sending articles to St. Louis, as fast as boxes could be filled up, she has received and forwarded goods to the amount of \$17,000, and in cash nearly as much more. Beyond this the Commission at St. Louis knows nothing of the *modus operandi*, or the moving causes, to which it is indebted for the continued, uninterrupted

stream of gifts by which their warehouses have been kept full and their treasury replenished. It has been a spontaneous and self-directing movement. No better proof could be given of the closeness of the ties which bind our people together, than this cordial sympathy and almost unsolicited generosity, which make for themselves channels to flow in, and only ask that their gifts may be freely used. Boston alone has sent over two hundred thousand dollars; New England, five hundred thousand. And now a new tide of benevolence has begun to flow in the same direction for the suffering freedmen of the Mississippi valley. We earnestly hope that the current of relief for the sick and wounded, for the refugee and the emancipated, may continue to run full and strong. It is more blessed to give than to receive. No one can estimate the amount of good done, not less for patriotism than for humanity. The golden rule, to do as you would be done by, thus practised, will bind the East and West together in bonds that no secession or rebellion will ever disturb again. At this moment no two cities are nearer each other than St. Louis and Boston; no two States, than Missouri and Massachusetts.

This spontaneous method of supplies and total absence of system in collections may not be the best plan. On the contrary, it is evidently a very bad plan for continuousness of action, and is liable at any time to complete failure. That it has worked so well with the Western Commission is a matter of surprise. Nor was it ever adopted as a regular method, but at first came of its own accord, and has continued because it has answered the purpose. Besides, no system of auxiliaries could have been established throughout the States without interference with the plans of the United States Commission, at the risk of creating conflicting interests, and perhaps unkind feeling. The most hateful of all jealousies and controversies are those among philanthropic or charitable associations, and their possibility should be avoided at almost any inconvenience or loss. The only course, therefore, for those whom a sort of destiny made "outsiders" seemed to be that which shaped itself,—to let it be known from time to time that such a place as St. Louis "still lives," and that working men and women can be found there who are willing to do the best they can, and that all contribu-

tions sent there will be gratefully acknowledged and economically used. Thus far, this knowledge has brought the needful supplies. When it fails to do so, the work must cease.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that our present writing is supplementary to the article in our January number, and in no respect controversial or antagonistic. We challenge no comparisons between the two bodies, so different in their organization, so similar in their accomplished results. We are conscious of a certain degree of ludicrousness in such a comparison, if made. It is to compare great things with small. We earnestly deprecate all rivalry or competition, or the seeming of it. We can say as much in praise of the United States Sanitary Commission as its best friends can reasonably desire, and are glad to do so. It has done an immense amount of good, and prevented an immense amount of evil. What the army or the country could have done without it, is a question hard to answer just in proportion to our knowledge of the facts. It may well be proud of the largeness of its plans and the general faithfulness and success with which they have been carried out. Its history is coincident with that of the war, and its deeds of charity and loyalty will constitute one of the brightest chapters in the suppression of the great rebellion. It has supplied not only "butter" to the Medical Department and Commissariat "bread" (we are using its own illustration), but bread and butter both, food and clothing, shelter and kindly care, to tens of thousands of those who were ready to perish. God bless them for it all! In a few years it will be forgotten that the Western Commission had a separate existence, and whatever it may have done will fall into the general result, to swell the grand total of patriotic zeal. Imaginary lines of exclusion and separateness will disappear in the narrative. The one general fact will be all that anybody will care about, — that the American people took care of the American army; that, while the sons were fighting for their country's freedom, the mothers and daughters, from women of fourscore years to little girls of five, were working with an equal patriotism at home; that it was thus a "people's war," to which all classes brought their best offering and in which there were no exemptions; that it was a war of civilization against barbarism,

in which the rights of womanhood not less than of manhood were vindicated, and in which the women played their part not less nobly than the men. That is all that history will care about, and not for the agency by which the work was done.

The origin of the Western Sanitary Commission was as follows. After the battle near Springfield, Missouri, August 18th, 1861, which would have been a complete victory had Lyon lived, and was kept from the disasters of defeat by the gallantry of Schofield and others then unknown to fame, when all loyal men in St. Louis were anxious for the result and the disloyal were so exultant that their rejoicing could scarcely be repressed, after eight or ten days had elapsed, the sick and wounded began to be brought in. Absolutely nothing was ready for them. A large unfinished building, the new "House of Refuge," four miles from the city, had been taken for hospital uses, but neither stoves, nor bedsteads, nor beds, nor bedding, nor food, nor nurses, nor anything else, had been prepared. The first hundred arrived at night. They had been brought in wagons a hundred and twenty miles, over a rough road, by hurried marches, suffering for food and water, from Springfield to Rolla, and thence by rail to St. Louis to the station on Fourteenth Street. There, having had nothing to eat for ten hours, they were put into furniture-carts (much better than those instruments of torture called ambulances) and carried the remaining three miles. Bare walls, bare floors, and an empty kitchen received them; but the kind-hearted surgeon, Bailey, did all he could to make kindness take the place of good fare. He obtained from the neighbors cooked food for their supper, and lost no time in getting together the various means of comfort. The poor fellows were so shattered and travel-worn that they were thankful enough to get eatable food, with the hard boards to sleep upon, and no word of complaint did we ever hear one of them utter. In the course of the week three or four hundred more were brought in, the condition of things meanwhile rapidly improving; but so great was the difficulty of obtaining anything that was wanted, that many of the badly wounded men lay there in the same unchanged garments in which they had been brought from the battle-field three weeks before. Every day, however, made things better, and by the end of a month from

the first arrivals Dr. Bailey began to say that "it was not yet what he called a good hospital, but that the men were all comfortable."

In the earlier part of this experience, and to increase the working force of the Medical Department, it was suggested to General Frémont to form a Civilian Commission, "*under the direction of the Medical Director,*" and to aid him in his work. A special order to that effect was prepared, which was signed on the same day that brought the telegram countermanding the Frémont proclamation of freedom,—the greatest mistake, in our opinion, then and now, that our freedom-loving President has ever made. The order had been prepared under the counsel of Medical Director DeCamp, and was entirely acceptable to him. "Now," said he, "the work may increase as fast as it pleases." No young man could have worked with more humane or loyal heart than his, or with greater efficiency and success. The requisite orders were obtained from day to day for opening new hospitals, and fitting them up in proper manner, for the hiring of civilian nurses, for special laundry-arrangements, for burial of the dead, for hospital-cars on the railroad, for a convalescent hospital, and whatever else was needed under the extraordinary exigency of the times. The result was, that at the end of six weeks four large hospitals were well established, with over two thousand beds, all occupied, and with all the essential comforts that sick men require. We have heard a good deal of indignant complaint about General Frémont's "barricade," and have no doubt that access to him was often made unnecessarily difficult. But the barricade always yielded to hospital demands, whether by night or day, and no pressure of business ever prevented such claims from being immediately heard and granted.* Under such fostering care, and with such harmony of action, it is no matter of surprise that, by the 1st of November, 1861, the hospitals and hospital

* We may be permitted to add, that General Frémont has not lost his interest in those who have suffered in the war. Since the discontinuance of his active service, he has regularly sent almost the whole of his "pay" to the writer of this article, to be used at discretion for "those that need,"—a fact which has been confidentially held, but which can now without impropriety be mentioned. In this time of our country's trial, we claim to belong to no party, but like to see justice done to all.

service were in as good condition, in and near St. Louis, and were doing as large a work, as in any department or district of the loyal States.

At this juncture, the Commission at St. Louis received from Washington a formal remonstrance against their proceedings from beginning to end, with notice that official protest had been made to the Secretary of War, requesting him to vindicate his own authority (infringed by the infringement of the authority of the United States Sanitary Commission) by requiring General Frémont to rescind his order, and put the Western Commission in its proper place of subordination. At the same time, official statements had been made of the general inefficiency and negligence in the whole medical department at the West. Of course, this action of the United States Commission had been taken under great misapprehension of the facts; and as soon as this was corrected, their action was materially modified. Secretary Cameron "had no objection to the Western gentlemen being as independent as they pleased, so long as they were under the Medical Department." The President was of the same opinion, and things were permitted to remain *in statu quo*, and have remained so ever since,—except that Secretary Stanton renewed and reaffirmed the order of General Frémont, establishing the Western Commission by special order of his own, extending its range of action to all the States west of the mountains, under direction as before. It has continued its labors under circumstances of greater or less difficulty, and with varying success, under the command of Major-Generals Halleck, Curtis, Schofield, and Rosecrans, and has helped to take care of the sick and wounded of every campaign and every battle-field and in every hospital within its range of action. It now enjoys, under orders of Major-Generals Grant, Sherman, and others, all the rights and privileges, that is to say, all the opportunities of service, which it can possibly desire. If its means to work with were quadrupled, the opportunity of using them is nowhere denied. It daily co-operates, wherever it can, with the United States Commission and its branches, with the Christian Commission, with the State organizations, and Ladies' Union Aid societies. There is more than room enough for all to work, and more than work enough for all to do.

Whether or not it would have been better for the St. Louis Commission to reorganize as a "Branch" of the United States Commission is a question chiefly of personal interest, as to which "a great deal may be said on both sides." Co-operation under some general plan is the essential point, and not subordination. Independence and individuality of action should always be kept if possible, and when lost, no excellence of system can take their place. The spirit of separation is a very different thing. In the present case, and as things stand now, we can see no reason why the two commissions should not harmonize, virtually if not nominally, into one, if any practical advantages can be thereby secured. But two or three years ago the case was very different. Then St. Louis and Missouri were in a turmoil of excitement and strife. Expected to do the work of a loyal community, not one fourth of its wealthy and influential classes were loyal. The head-quarters of the most important department in the conduct of the war, it was itself debatable ground. One half of the cannon planted on the forts for defence of the city were pointed *at* the city, to keep in awe the enemies within. The number of those who cared to be prominent, even in sanitary works, was not large; and when the Ladies' Union Aid Society was formed, it was almost a secret movement, upon which nine tenths of the citizens looked with disfavor or contempt. A small commission of well-known citizens, appointed by the commander and reporting directly to him, seemed the most feasible plan of action, and this was adopted. The work of each day needed to be done promptly and under orders. Often it was of a confidential nature, such as could be intrusted only to personal friends. Under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, St. Louis has done her part with the best, and has become the centre of a work of almost unequalled magnitude. Its Sanitary Commission, with its office in a single room sixteen feet square, claiming no authority and wishing for none, working for humanity rather than for history, has never refused any labor for the army or hospitals, for prisoners or refugees, for bond or free.

Upon another topic of far deeper and more general interest our present limits will not permit us to speak. We refer to the past and present social and political relations of Missouri

with the loyal States, especially upon the great question of slavery and freedom. It is a subject upon which very incorrect ideas prevail, and its importance is not generally understood. In our opinion, it was the turning-point of the rebellion. When Missouri was saved, the rebellion was virtually crushed. If Missouri had been lost, even temporarily, to the Union, Kentucky would have gone too, and the plans of the Confederacy would have been completely accomplished. European recognition would have followed, and the whole face of affairs been changed. But we must leave this subject to a future number and to abler hands.

ART. IX. — *History of West Point; its Military Importance during the American Revolution, and the Origin and Progress of the United States Military Academy.* By Captain EDWARD C. BOYNTON, A. M., Adjutant of the Military Academy. New York: D. Van Nostrand. 1863.

THE simple name of West Point is of as wide and varied significance as that of any spot in American geography. It has more than one special history, and yet all its histories are blended together in harmonious connection, linking the past with the present, the physical with the moral, the glories of our "heroic age" with the stern necessities, and, let us hope, the greater glories of present power and justice and hope. The spirit of Washington still walking upon its plain, and speaking from its inland summits, inspires and encourages the youthful soldiers who are, perhaps, yet to strike manful blows against a mighty treason, and lend their aid in saving the country which he and his worthy compeers fought to establish through long years of weakness and hardship and despondency.

West Point may be considered, then, in reference to its importance as a military position in the Revolutionary period; or it may be treated in its character as the seat of the only military school of the nation.

In the former view, it is full of undying interest, and might